

Adjournment Debate

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The Chair has no choice but to admit that it is not yet ten o'clock. The hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen).

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Mr. Speaker, I just want to make one very short point, and then I will turn the floor over to the parliamentary secretary.

The point is that in the six and a half years I have been here I have listened to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) on, I think, almost any subject which could be raised in this House. He is the acknowledged expert on rules. I have enjoyed listening to him. He has raised this matter of the Senate before.

What puzzles me is that there has been almost deafening silence from the hon. member on the Constitution. He has taken one aspect of the Constitution—namely, the Senate—and has talked and talked and talked. He has not talked about how the rights of Manitobans would be denied by the constitutional proposal or about how the rights of Manitobans would be emasculated by the constitutional proposal. He has not talked about the fact that the New Democratic Party in Manitoba is against the constitutional proposal. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has spoken in this House on almost every topic, but he has maintained a deafening silence on that particular topic. I look forward to hearing a 40-minute speech with regard to his views on the constitutional package.

Mr. Knowles: That debate isn't over yet.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): On the matter of the consideration of the motion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) with respect to a bill to amend the British North America Act, the fact is that the hour provided for private members' business has now expired.

Mr. Knowles: The senators can sleep another night.

Mr. Collenette: They will never expire.

● (2200)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Before I recognize the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen), I note there is a possibility that some hon. members might be inconvenienced if the hon. member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby) were to debate his matter first.

Mr. Friesen: I am a very tolerant person, sir.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): In that event I recognize the hon. member for Halifax West.

NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM—IMPLEMENTATION IN EASTERN CANADA

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Mr. Speaker, on February 17, 1981, I asked the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) when we in Atlantic Canada, and particularly those of us on the east coast and in Nova Scotia, could expect to see the implementation of the National Energy Program and its various projects and programs listed in the document introduced in this House on October 28, 1980. The minister assured me in a very quick response that the government would implement the National Energy Program. I was not at all satisfied with his answer, and I am sure the people in Nova Scotia and on the east coast of Canada would not be satisfied with his answer because, since the National Energy Program was introduced in this House on October 28, 1980, we have seen not one tick of action on the part of the Government of Canada in the energy field.

We on the east coast have been well aware for some time of the energy problem because we were the first to experience the bad effects of shortages of supply and increases in price. The reason for that is that a great amount of our energy supply is foreign. As a result of the actions of OPEC, prices increased very dramatically in the period following 1972. We have lived with the problem of increasing costs of energy supplies for almost a decade. It was only in October of 1980 that the government finally came up with some attempt to solve the problem.

However, in the few months which have elapsed since October of 1980 we have not seen any action, so my question to the minister was then, and is now, what specifically the Government of Canada is doing.

In the weeks before the question was raised by me on February 17, 1981 we heard complaints that oil rigs were leaving Canada, jobs were being lost in the energy industry and that the government's program of Canadianization of Canada's oil industry was a failure. We heard denials from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources time and time again in this House with respect to the reduction of the activities of energy producers. In fact, quoted on many occasions statistics were to show that the level of development activity in Canada was just as great in January of 1981 as it was in January of 1980. But, in point of fact, in Nova Scotia we were informed that those graduates of job-training programs who were intended to be absorbed by this great development in the oil industry in Canada were finding that there were no jobs available to them. In fact, the director of manpower training programs on the east coast publicly admitted that the job training programs had been deferred because of the cutbacks in activity on behalf of the companies and industries engaged in this development. Indeed, this was proof positive that there was a dramatic effect on exploration and development as a result of the National Energy Program. We wanted to know, and we still want to know, exactly what the government is